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Thursday, May 3, 2012
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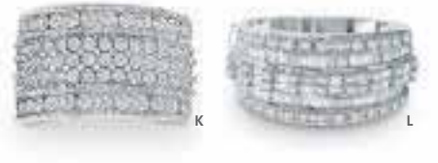

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SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 10 SHOPPERS DRUG MART

CURVE BALL

BLUE JAYS LINEUP SHUFFLE PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS WITH 11-5 ROUT OF THE TEXAS RANGERS PAGE 15

FRIDAY'S DRAW
$50 MILLION estimated + 2 MAXMILLIONS estimated
Lotto MAX

LONDON metro®
Thursday, May 3, 2012
News worth sharing.
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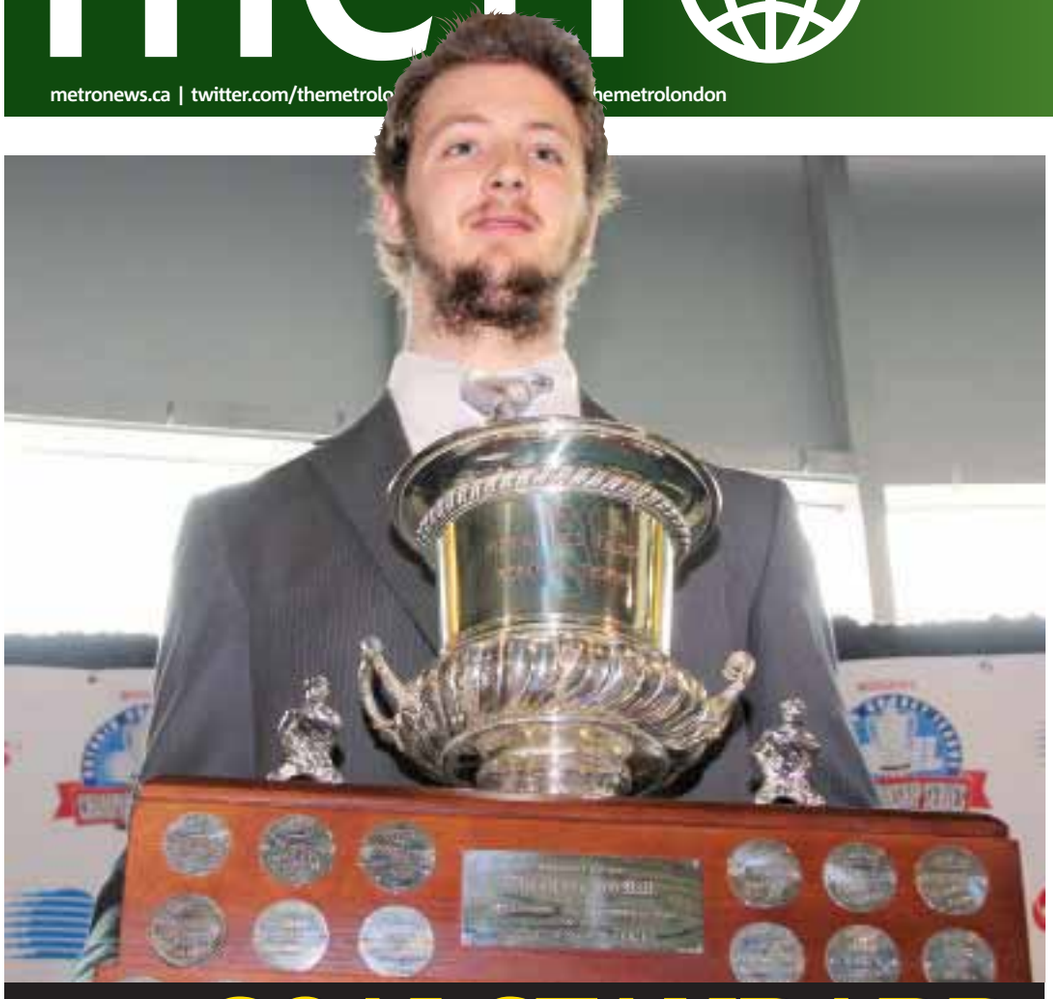


GOAL STANDARD

The Ontario Hockey League's most outstanding player, London Knights goaltender Michael Houser, gets ready to accept the prestigious award at the John Labatt Centre on Wednesday. The 19-year-old — who tied a single-season OHL record by recording 46 wins in the regular season — is just the fifth goaltender, fifth Knight and third American to receive the Red Tilson Trophy. More on the Knights, page 4. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Risking business?

EU trade pact. Opting out of deal could hurt London's image, business leader says

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

The Forest City is closed for business: That's the image city councillors are sending the world by "opting out" of a federal trade agreement being negotiated with the European Union, critics say.

"It sends a negative message that London is not prepared to be in the global marketplace," said Gerry Macartney, chief executive of the Chamber of Commerce. "We need to be at the table. If we're not, others will be and (they) will have a far better competitive advantage."

Not to mention there's some ambiguity about what kind of oomph council's Tuesday decision has regarding the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

"It makes little difference whether the city decides to opt in or opt out of it," Macartney said on Wednesday. "It's akin to the federal government telling the municipal government which potholes to fill."

Considering London West MP Ed Holder is part of the CETA negotiating team, it's "an embarrassment," Macartney added.

While CETA supporters tout the deal as a chance to boost trade and create jobs, opponents argue it could cost cities a say in where they buy goods — forcing businesses into European instead of local markets.

The Council of Canadians has been pressuring Ottawa for more information and encouraging city leaders to send a strong anti-CETA message by opting out. So far, about 50 cities have passed motions similar to London's.

COUNCIL OF CANADIANS RAISES ISSUE OVER LOCAL COUNCILLOR, PAGE 3.

Pros and cons

- The Council of Canadians has outlined its opposition at canadians.org/ceta.
- The government has responded at international.gc.ca/commerce.

Outdoor Farmers' Market Opens May 5!
Thurs. 8 - 2 pm and Sat. 8 - 1 pm
COVENT GARDEN MARKET
The Heart of London
130 KING STREET
coventmarket.com coventgardenmarket

1

NEWS

On the web

Model asks moms to keep it down

Christy Turlington is asking mothers to step back from Mother's Day this year. No cards, no cake, no flowers, no "noise." Find out why at metronews.ca

Band pops its cork

Backstage with the rock band Train before a performance may not be quite what you expect from a Grammy-winning, multi-platinum group. Instead of groupies, you'll find wine glasses and bottles of their latest hit, Train-made wine. Get the full story at metronews.ca

Mobile news

We've long been hearing that Canadians are huge fans of watching online video, more so than web surfers in any other country. According to a recent survey, almost a quarter of Canadians say they now spend more time watching online video than traditional TV. Scan the code for the story.

Nazi imagery at council 'not the best way to make a point'

Councillor Stephen Orser apologizes. But says he has no regrets

The fluoride debate may be over, but the final act is leaving a bad taste in some people's mouths.

At Tuesday night's meeting where city council voted to maintain fluoride in city water, Coun. Stephen Orser distributed a leaflet to his colleagues with Nazi imagery on it.

The flyer has an image of Hitler, a swastika and a Nazi propaganda poster on it and reads, "Nazi Germany used water fluoridation in concentration camps to sterilize the humans and force them into calm submission."

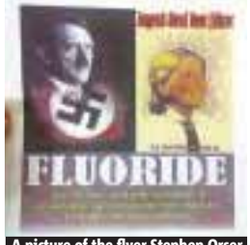
Speaking with AM980, Orser said he made the pamphlets because he wanted an answer to a question he asked months ago at a public information meeting. He said he wanted to know the exact concentration of fluoride in our water supply, but wasn't getting any answers.

Orser said he doesn't regret using the images.

"I don't understand why I would have regrets," he said. "Are we supposed to bury our head about this? I'm very uncomfortable drinking a chemical that was used for that purpose."

Coun. Joe Swan said he felt the papers weren't in good taste and feels Orser recognized it wasn't the best course of action to take in the end.

"Stephen's a good councillor, he's committed to his community and he'll learn from that as I would when I make a mistake and council members draw it to my attention," Swan said. "So a learning opportunity for all of us."



A picture of the flyer Stephen Orser distributed at council Tuesday night. AM980/AM980.CA

Executive Director of the London Jewish Community Centre Esther Marcus issued the following statement: "I note Councillor Orser issued an apology, which we accept. We believe he meant no malice, and any offense was unintended. I contacted Councillor Orser to convey that message. Obviously Nazi analogies, in general, are not the best way to make a point — but we appreciate his apology and we've moved on."

AM980/AM980.CA

Smoking hot Curry closes restaurant — for now

Curry's restaurant (118 Wellington Rd.) will be closed indefinitely after a Wednesday blaze caused an estimated $120,000 worth of damage, said Rick Jefferson, the fire department's public-information officer. Firefighters responded to the scene at 6:12 a.m. after someone called 911. Smoke was rolling from the back of the restaurant when trucks arrived, Jefferson said. The cause is being investigated. No injuries were reported. Owners Susan and Pramod Kukadia took the news in stride and joked with fire officials "that was a spicy breakfast dish that got out of hand." They plan to reopen as soon as possible and will likely start by offering pickup and takeout before the dining room is ready. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Development. 12-storey Reservoir Hill condo tower takes next step

It will be at least several weeks before construction crews move onto 940 Springbank Dr. to start building a condo tower, said Alan Patton, the developer's lawyer.

London city council gave final site plan approval this week to the controversial 12-storey, 165-unit development on Reservoir Hill.

The approval gives way for a number of "administrative steps," like securing a building permit, to start, Patton said. Talks of a land swap between the city and the developer have been quashed with councillors voting late Tuesday to take no action on the issue.

An artist's rendering of the condo development pegged for Reservoir Hill. CONTRIBUTED

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

National spotlight

Big nod for YOU

Youth Opportunities Unlimited is receiving national attention for its programs with homeless youths. The London organization received a $25,000 award from Eva's Initiatives. METRO

Children's Hospital

Helmets right fit

The Children's Hospital's bicycle helmet giveaway outfits children and teens who come to the hospital with a cycling-related injury with a new fitted helmet. METRO

Speeder. Driver clocked at 122 km/h in a 50 involved in crash days later

Less than two weeks after his vehicle was clocked doing 122 kilometres per hour in a 50 km zone in London, a male driver was involved in a serious single-vehicle crash west of St. Mary's.

Ontario Provincial Police say the driver lost control of his vehicle Monday morning on Perth Road 139 near Whalen Line and struck two trees.

He was extricated from the car, and air-lifted to hospital in London with non-life-threatening injuries.

Just 10 days earlier, the same driver was clocked by police doing 122 km/h in a 50 km zone at Oxford and Adelaide streets.

His vehicle was impounded for seven days and seized by police.

Kevin Devries, 40, was later released on a promise to appear in court at a later date.

AM980/AM980.CA

Maximum fine

$2,000

Maximum fine the driver could face for driving 122 km/h in a 50 km zone.

Tori Stafford's killer to face inmate-assault trial in Sept.

Prison brawl. Terri-Lynne McClintic will plead not guilty to assaulting a fellow inmate in Kitchener, her lawyer says

Terri-Lynne McClintic THE CANADIAN PRESS

The woman already serving a life sentence for killing eight-year-old Tori Stafford will go on trial in mid-September to face a charge of assault causing bodily harm related to an incident in prison, court decided Wednesday.

The Crown is proceeding summarily, meaning Terri-Lynne McClintic, who made a brief video appearance, will stand trial in Ontario court of justice, her lawyer Geoff Snow said.

"She has rights and she's exercising them," Snow said from London.

The hearing Sept. 12 is expected to last about six hours.

The charge stems from an incident Jan. 30 at the Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener, where McClintic is serving her sentence after pleading guilty two years ago to Tori's first-degree murder and kidnapping.

The Crown alleges McClintic got into a fight with another inmate, who is also serving a life sentence for first-degree murder for instructing two men to kill her former lover.

During her recent testimony against Michael Rafferty, who is on trial for Tori's first-degree murder and kidnapping, McClintic, 21, admitted to attacking a fellow inmate.

"Yes, I did assault her," McClintic said in response to prodding by Rafferty's lawyer, Dirk Derstine.

"I confronted her about some things, and things escalated."

Court heard that McClintic had asked to see the inmate for peer support but got into a brawl where she kicked and stomped the other woman, who was curled up in the fetal position.

Snow said McClintic would not admit to the assault charge when she appears in court.

"She'll be arraigned on the trial date and she'll enter a plea of not guilty," Snow said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EU deal. Group raises questions over what's at stake for councillor

Paul VanMeerbergen METRO FILE

The Council of Canadians' London branch is questioning if procedural rules were violated during Tuesday's Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement debate in council chambers.

Don McLeod, a group representative, says Coun. Paul VanMeerbergen may have violated local and provincial rules by not declaring a financial stake in the issue. Councillors are supposed to abstain from voting if that's the case.

McLeod said the company VanMeerbergen works for stands to profit from CETA. Last week, he hosted a visit from the federal finance member to tout the deal, said McLeod, who has written a letter to the city clerk asking for clarification.

VanMeerbergen gave a fiery speech about the trade agreement's importance during Tuesday's discussion.

The European Union "is coming to our doorstep, and we're saying no way too prematurely," he told other councillors. "We are a trading nation. To do this to the city of London is so wrong."

He did not respond to a request for comment Wednesday. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Photos are online

Fleming Drive wanted list grows

London police have added five people to a list of unidentified suspects in the St. Patrick's Day riot on Fleming Drive. There are now 27 pictures of people who police have not been able to identify posted at police.london.ca. Police have arrested 42 and laid 103 charges. Anyone with information can contact London police. METRO

Contact Crime Stoppers

Police take to YouTube to find Fotheringham

London police's continued search for Vanessa Fotheringham now includes an informative video.

The 1:46-long clip, which can be found on YouTube, is another initiative to find the 24-year-old, who has been missing since Feb. 16.

The video was shot in the area where Fotheringham was last seen, at the intersection of Oxford and Quebec streets. METRO

Vanessa Fotheringham METRO FILE

Ornge scandal

Ex-CEO's girlfriend defends her success

The girlfriend of ousted Ornge CEO Chris Mazza has defended her quick climb up the corporate ladder at Ontario's troubled air ambulance service, which saw her rise from communications officer to junior executive in five years. "I feel that I deserved the promotions that I received," the former water-ski instructor said Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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31 Days, 31 BBQs to be WON!
Nightly Draws May 1 - 31, 2012 at 11pm!

Swipe your Winner's Circle Rewards card daily at OLG Slots at Western Fair District from 9:00am, May 1, 2012 until 10:55pm, May 31, 2012 for your chance to WIN a Weber Propane BBQ worth $1,098!

Visit the Winner's Circle Rewards desk for details.

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OLG Slots AT WESTERN FAIR DISTRICT

Must be 19 years of age or older. Valid government-issued photo identification may be required. No purchase necessary. Chances of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Contest open to Winner's Circle Rewards members only. There is no fee payable to obtain membership, but OLG is not responsible for any delays in processing membership applications. 31 Weber Genesis Premium CEP 330 BBQ's available to be won. Approximate retail value is $1,098 CAD. Completed ballots must be deposited in to the Get Fired Up to Win ballot drum by 10:55pm daily from May 1 - 31, 2012 to be eligible for that nights' 11:00pm draw. Do not have to be present to win. Contest closes at 10:59pm on May 31, 2012. Weber is not a sponsor of, nor participant in, this promotion. Patrons with self-excluded or trespassed status as determined by OLG, will not be eligible to participate in this or any OLG Slots & Casinos promotion. Any self-excluded person detected at a gaming property will be removed and trespassed. Please visit the Winner's Circle Rewards desk for complete rules and regulations. Pour renseignements en français, adressez-vous à un des représentants de Récompenses du Cercle des gagnants.

London Knights captain Jarred Tinordi was on hand for the Ontario Hockey League championship series launch Wednesday afternoon at the John Labatt Centre. The six-foot-seven rearguard has seven points in 14 playoff games so far, to go along with a team-leading plus-12 rating. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Knights say they're ready for toughest challenge yet

OHL Finals. The No. 1-ranked London Knights face off against the second-seeded Niagara IceDogs

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

Little has gone wrong for the London Knights over the course of 2011-12.

They didn't drop consecutive games until March, they've waltzed through three rounds of the Ontario Hockey League playoffs largely unscathed, and now officially own the league's most outstanding player in goaltender Michael Houser.

The magic number of 16 wins to an OHL championship has been sliced down significantly. With the powerhouse Niagara IceDogs in their way though, the final four will surely be the toughest to snag.

Having had eight days to cool off, it'll be interesting to see if the likes of Vlad Namestnikov and Seth Griffith — both of whom with 10 points in their last seven games — continue their excellent play in the OHL final.

"The main difference between the IceDogs and us is that they're a little older," Knights head coach Mark Hunter said. "We can roll four lines like them, have good defence like them, and strong forwards like them."

Even if the top-line duo of Namestnikov and Griffith keeps pace, the Knights will still need production from the Ryan Ruperts (5-0 in games when he scores), Olli Maattas (19 points in 14 games) and Austin Watsons (elite penalty killer) of their group.

Jarred Tinordi, a 20-year-old Montreal Canadiens prospect who has been a centrepiece of the Knights organization for two seasons now, believes consistent pressure on Niagara's blue-line corps will be vital.

"I think the biggest thing we need to do is to get our cycle going," London's six-foot-seven captain said. "As a big guy myself, I know it's tough to be effective when the forwards are always moving."

The Bo Horvat-Chris Tierney-Josh Anderson trio, which usually gets third-line minutes, has been arguably the squad's most effective forechecking unit in the post-season. Tinordi said they'll be leaned on to tire out the IceDogs' hulking defencemen and pump some energy into the Knights roster when needed.

Follow John Matisz on Twitter @Metro_JMatisz

The opposition. IceDogs bring three S's — size, speed, skill — to London

When your leadership core suits up for Team Canada at the World Junior Hockey Championship, you know you're in a good place.

The fact all of their pieces weren't together for the majority of the regular season has made the Niagara IceDogs' trek to the OHL final that much more impressive.

"We believed in this team all along," Niagara head coach Marty Williamson said. "We're a team that has gotten better as the year has gone on."

Thanks to lengthy suspensions and long-term injuries — along with the world junior tournament departures of forwards Freddie Hamilton and Ryan Strome, defencemen Dougie Hamilton and Jamie Oleksiak, as well as goaltender Mark Visentin — the Eastern Conference champs rarely iced a full roster for a long period of time until the post-season began.

Dougie Hamilton

Now, with 15 playoff games under their belt, they'll meet the only squad who trumped them in the points column in the regular season.

"We're going to have to match their speed," London head coach Mark Hunter said. "We're going to have to make sure our tempo is up."

JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Convicted murderer Ronald Smith becomes emotional during his clemency hearing in Powell County District Court on Wednesday in Deer Lodge, Mont. MICHAEL GALLACHER/THE MISSOULIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Convicted killer weeps as sister pleads for his life

Clemency hearing. Canadian Ronald Smith has been on death row in the U.S. since killing two men 30 years ago

The only Canadian on death row in the United States broke down and cried at his clemency hearing in Montana on Wednesday.

Ronald Smith, who shot and killed two young men in 1982, had sat emotionless through the first part of the morning but lost control when his sister Rita Duncan read a letter he had written to their mother after her death last year.

Smith covered his eyes, brushed away tears and was patted on the shoulder by his lawyer.

Duncan said although she shut Smith out of her life for years, he has always loved her and she is proud to be his sister.

"I honestly do not know what I would do without my brother by my side. I can't bear the thought of losing another brother and I'm sorry if this sounds selfish. I don't know what I would do without him," said Duncan, her voice quavering.

She asked people in the packed courtroom to put themselves in her place.

Smith, 54, has been on death row since shooting Thomas Running Rabbit and Harvey Mad Man Jr. near East Glacier, Mont., 30 years ago.

Smith is asking the Board of Pardons and Parole to recommend his death sentence be commuted. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Daughter's perspective

"I've seen a man who has many regrets about the things that he has done. He shows his remorse in his eyes and in his voice and every time we talk."

Carmen Blackburn, Smith's daughter

Wants to leave China

Blind activist fears for family's safety

A blind activist said Wednesday that U.S. officials told him that Chinese authorities would have beaten his wife to death had he not left the American Embassy, where he sought sanctuary after fleeing persecution by local officials in his rural town.

A senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, denied that the administration had passed on to Chen Guangcheng any threat of violence to his family, but did say that Chen was told that if he stayed in the embassy indefinitely, his family would be returned to their home province.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. election. After Gingrich departs, Obama campaign releases anti-Romney video

Newt Gingrich officially ended his campaign on Wednesday, and U.S. President Barack Obama's re-election campaign released a web video of clips from the Republican primaries in which the former House speaker sharply criticized Mitt Romney — Obama's likely opponent in November.

Facing a tight race, Obama's campaign put forward Gingrich's anti-Romney messages on issues from immigration to the presumptive nominee's tenure as a venture capitalist.

Gingrich led the Republicans out of 40 years of minority status in the lower house of Congress in 1994, but later resigned under an ethics cloud.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newt Gingrich
CHUCK BURTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

THE COMPREHENSIVE CANADIAN LIST

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

I've been enamoured lately with various best-selling books of factoids such as Schott's Miscellany, the Farmers Almanac and John's Bathroom Reader (no relation), and how, despite their diversity of information, they all come back to one key factoid: I want a best-selling book, too.

So I've begun collecting information about Canada — both interesting and oddball — that I might present the Canadian All-manac, where one can learn everything from the name of Canada's first secretary general to Nellie McClung's best-selling album. For the small sample of text I provide below, a small donation is appreciated and mandatory.

What people from various Canadian places are called:
- Cornwall: Cornwallas
- Leduc: Leducs of Earl
- Kenora: Kenoraephrons
- Medicine Hat: Pillboxers
- Dawson Creek: Vanderbeeks
- Grand Prairie: Newfoundlanders
- Toronto: Empty inside

The most popular Canadian pickup lines:
"Condoms if necessary, but not necessarily condoms."
"General Wolfe would have pulled through if he'd seen you."
"It's been 172 years. Time for another Act of Union?"
"Hey baby, you want to see my Head of State?"

Reasons Canadian prescription drugs are restricted in the U.S.:
- Canadian drugs include the evil gateway drug medicinal marijuana.
- There is no way to tell what's actually in the bottle because the labels are written in Canadian.
- Buying cheaper drugs from another country is just another sad example of "trying to be popular around the world because that would make sense and help our citizens."
- Canadian drugs could promote a polite, moderate lifestyle.

Most popular Canadian pastimes (non-hockey):
- Hockey.
- Nationality-hyphenating.
- Making love to a canoe.
- Mumbling O Canada.
- Historical re-enactments of the drafting of the Constitution Act of 1867. (I call George-Etienne Cartier!)
- Hating Canadian provinces you've never been to.
- Heritage moment drinking game! Drink if you hear, "I need these baskets back!" "Ahhh, Mr. Clarence, why doont you just rrread it then?" and "Hey, buddy, he means the friggin' village."

Ways Canadian soldiers differ from American soldiers:
- Canadian snipers say "sorry" after every shot.
- Humanitarian packages consist of three beer, some maple syrup, and Rock 'em Sock 'em 18.
- Afghan poppy fields are razed, but replaced with medicinal marijuana.
- Uniforms by Roots.

Failed Canadian tourism slogans:
Manitoba: I'd walk a mile for a neighbour!
Ontario: Ride the downward spiral!
New Brunswick: For the love of God, stop!
Newfoundlanders: Your favourite walks-into-a-bar jokes come to life!
Nunavut: Friends, frostbite and fun!
Saskatchewan: Flat is phat!

Popular Canadian adult films:
- Winnipeggers
- Oh, Canada!
- Debbie does Drapeau
- They call him Avro Arrow
- Henderson Scores #8
- Goose!
- Ig-naughty-iff
- The Devil and Mrs. Lyon Mackenzie King
- Backdoor Legislation: A National Film Board joint
- Dief-Throat

All eyes on the lens

MAURIZIO MALAGOLI/SOLENT NEWS & PHOTO AGENCY

Staring contest?

Owls spy with their little eyes

MODENA, ITALY. Amateur photographer and computer professional Maurizio Malagoli captured these little owls looking identically wide-eyed at the camera, after they were startled by an earlier picture being taken. Malagoli was left with this photograph, which shows the birds' yellow eyes in a perfect diagonal line. **METRO**

60 seconds

Maurizio Malagoli

Where did you capture this stunning image?
In Modena there is a sanctuary that tends to wounded animals before they are released back into the wild. At night, owls are attracted by the headlights of cars and are often injured on the roads. I arrived there the day some owls were being released. I positioned myself among the trees, wore green camouflage and waited a couple of hours before the owls were close enough to photograph. Looking into the lens I saw nothing but yellow eyes looking at me with a curious expression. **METRO**

Trivia

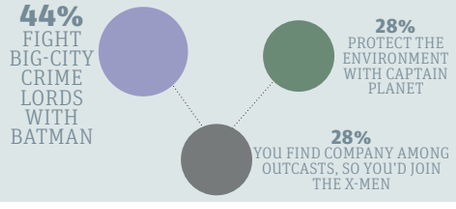
Sacred in Greek culture

- Scientifically known as athene noctua, little owls are associated with Athena, Greek goddess of wisdom, who is often featured with them in ancient art; the Greek one-euro coin shows the same little owl design as the silver tetradrachm coin from 2,500 years ago.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

If you could create a superhero version of yourself, whose team would you join?


44%
FIGHT BIG-CITY CRIME LORDS WITH BATMAN
28%
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT WITH CAPTAIN PLANET
28%
YOU FIND COMPANY AMONG OUTCASTS, SO YOU'D JOIN THE X-MEN

Twitter

@brit_nicole28:
Stuck waiting at a train... Maybe #tbay isn't so different from #LdnOnt after all!

@ArrowheadBand1:
I hail from #ldnont and just posted 2 new songs to soundcloud. Check them out! #metal #progressive #heavy

@AE_Brooks:
Did you know that the Battle of Longwoods is the only #warof1812 re-enactment in the London area this year? #ldnevnt #ldnont

@bob_bobloblaw:
Question: If we had fulltime councillors earning a decent wage would that attract a more qualified individual to the position? #ldnont

@phronk:
"We need to remove fluoride until it is proven safe" -- Someone who doesn't understand science or fluoride. #LdnOnt

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It's an honour: Creekside Strays set to release EP

New music. Band releases latest disc this Friday while headlining a show featuring local talent

BACKSTAGE PASS
Mila Petkovic
london@metronews.ca

The Creekside Strays headline a packed local bill this Friday at APK Live. SUPPLIED

"I personally loved being in a studio," says James Vinyard, front man of local band The Creekside Strays. "Being in a studio is like going to Disneyland for us. It just reaffirms how much you love making music."

Lucky for Vinyard, he's been able to spend one day a week over the past two months in the studio perfecting the band's latest EP, Honour Amongst Thieves. The band will celebrate the release of the EP Friday night at APK Live, headlining a packed local bill.

"The bands are all really different," Vinyard says. "And they are all from London."

The Creekside Strays will be joined by Phoenix Down, Drop 32 and The Mountain, the Forest, the Earth. Each group brings a distinctive style and voice to the evening's line-up from The Mountain, the Forest, the Earth's progressive vision to The Creekside Strays' funk jams.

"We're just trying to put together a good show," says Vinyard. "We're at this point that any show we play we want to be as professional a band as we can be. We want to always give people their money's worth."

That attitude has kept this hard-working band busy performing, rehearsing and perfecting the new EP.

"We've been playing these songs for a while," says Vinyard, "But they were able to mature through performing them live and jamming them out. By the time we got into the studio they had evolved."

In the studio at the Ontario Institute of Audio Recording Technology that evolution continued, the creative process never truly being complete. "Anytime you are in the studio little ideas come and you need to embrace these things and go with the flow," Vinyard says.

Partnering with a talented team doesn't hurt either. The Creekside Strays, made up of Vinyard, Nic Cavaliere and Justin Shorey, put their faith in sound engineer and OIART instructor Mark MacDonald, learning from his knowledge and experience.

With MacDonald's help the band tried to capture their live performance on the EP, bringing the funk rock on-stage charisma to the tracks. "We try to keep the emotion from a specific performance on the recording," Vinyard says. "That is more important than keeping everything perfect beat by beat, note by note. We would rather keep that performance element."

The Creekside Strays celebrate the release of the EP Honour Amongst Thieves Friday night at APK Live. Tickets are $5 at the door and the music starts at 10 p.m.

Around town

- **Saturday night.** Make your way to APK Live for all things hip-hop. Upstairs Artfusion 23 will be showcasing the work of the city's most talented urban artists while downstairs a hip-hop show will be bumping the bass until last call. California artist Bukue One is co-headlining the show with local emcee N.G.A. Tickets are $8 at the door, music starts at 9 p.m.

- **Also on Saturday.** Michael Gabriel will return to London with Strings Attached: An Orchestral Concert Series. He will perform with the Mysterium Youth Choir at the Aeolian Hall in a fusion of contemporary and classical music. Tickets are $25 in advance through the Aeolian Hall box office.

Norah Jones didn't set out to make a concept album. HANDOUT

Norah Jones, Danger Mouse. Channel heartbreak on her new concept album

Norah Jones has a piano in her kitchen.

You need look no further than this wonderfully off-kilter fact for a metaphor to describe the 33-year-old singer's evolution as she releases arguably the most interesting album of her career, Little Broken Hearts.

"It's nice because I have a music room, but you know it's like the office you never go in or the dining room you never go in or something," Jones said.

"So I ended up putting this funky old piano in my kitchen and it's great."

Jones didn't set out to put a piano in her kitchen, of course.

Much like her collaboration with the producer Danger Mouse on Little Broken Hearts, it just kind of happened naturally.

"I just like how it's turned into sort of a bit of a concept album without any intentions of that's what we were going to do," Jones said.

"I'm proud."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 SCENE

Scene in brief

YouTube launches channels

YouTube is adding to its original programming by launching channels specializing in female dramas and United States Olympic athletes. The Google Inc.-owned video site announced the new channels Wednesday ahead of an upfront presentation to advertisers. YouTube has sunk more than $100 million into an ambitious project to lure audiences for longer viewings and attract advertisers with higher quality videos. Filmmakers Jon Avnet and Rodrigo Garcia will launch the channel WIGS, focusing on scripted dramas for women. Also new is a TeamUSA channel from the U.S. Olympic Committee that will feature content ahead of the 2012 games. The Tribeca Film Festival, which recently concluded its 11th annual festival, is also planning a channel. YouTube has launched some 100 channels throughout the year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

U.K. police arrest 2 over theft of valuable Chinese artifacts from Cambridge Museum

Jaime Cepero. Actor dishes on the biggest swindler in showbiz — Ellis

Jaime Cepero GETTY IMAGES

"By the end of this season, the Ellis gun goes off," Jaime Cepero tells us about his deliciously villainous character on NBC's Smash. We interviewed him to find out more about everyone's favourite showbiz swindler.

So despite all the grief we give him in our recaps, Ellis is one of our favourite characters on Smash. And he gets some of the best storylines on the show. Do you agree?
Yeah, absolutely. I think the most exciting thing about this character for me, as an actor, was that he's really undefined as you go into the series. It sets the platform to kind of go anywhere I want, in as far as storyline. And it's been really interesting to watch him grow and get a new script each week and see where this kid is going. A lot of the other characters are very defined when you go into the seriess

He's also painted as a villain — but do you think he accurately represents a certain type of person in show business?
I've definitely met some Ellises in my day! I think that's why there's such a strong reaction to the character, because no matter what business you're in you know this person. METRO

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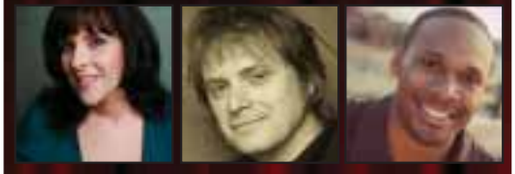

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Ruffalo talks about the monster inside

Mark Ruffalo takes on the role of The Hulk in The Avengers, opening Friday. HANDOUT

The Avengers. Playing The Hulk is actor's latest challenge — besides fighting fame

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

I meet Mark Ruffalo at a mid-town Toronto hotel to chat about The Avengers not realizing it represented a coming home of sorts for the actor. As we talked about playing the dual role of David Banner and his rage-a-holic alter ego The Hulk I mention one of his first television acting gigs, a guest spot on Due South shot in Hogtown.

"I stayed at this hotel before it was revamped," he says. "It was pretty low-end back then."

Judging by the fancy-shmancy Lobster Grilled Cheese on the room service menu the hotel is in better shape these days, and so is Ruffalo's career. The Oscar nominated actor is about to enjoy his biggest box office stint ever, despite having recently moved his family away from what he calls "the machinery" of Hollywood.

"Sometimes roles reflect where you are in your life," he says. "This came along and I tried to come up with every reason why I shouldn't do it, but I was still interested in it."

He saw a parallel between himself and the character.

"I ran away like Banner. I have this beast that's inside me that is celebrity and fame.

And this thing I have been on the run from has a tremendous amount of power, which if it is used right could actually have a positive effect in the world. And reach an audience."

That means making more of the kind of movies Ruffalo specializes in — indie dramas with real characters and situations. In the meantime, however, he has a blockbuster to promote, which involves the drudgery of answering the same questions over and over again.

"The big one," he says, "which I think has been asked the most is 'Which superhero power would you have?' Basically you have a choice between flying and being invisible. Then Scarlett added teleporting, which I thought was a cool one. Now mine is to be able to turn into anything I wanted at any given moment. I could be a river. I could be a cheeseburger with a beautiful girl eating me."

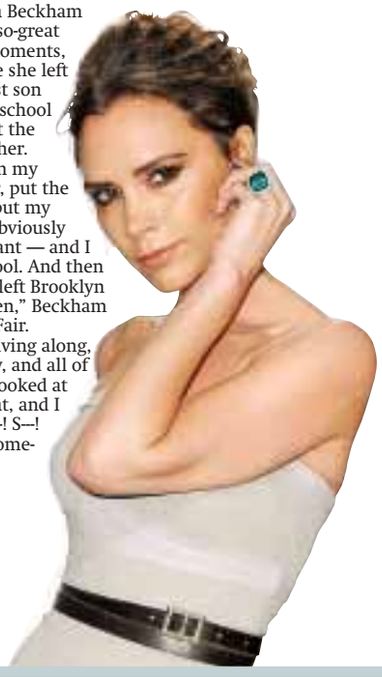
He doesn't care much for having to answer those kinds of questions, but would jump at the chance to revisit the Hulk.

"Let's do Planet Hulk! He won't let Banner have his body back! There's this huge existential fight going on. It's not The Hulk versus the World, it's the Hulk versus Banner and Banner versus the Hulk inside himself."

Quoted

"I have this beast that's inside me that is celebrity and fame."
Mark Ruffalo

Step your parenting game up Posh



Even famous mother of four Victoria Beckham has her not-so-great parenting moments, like the time she left to take eldest son Brooklyn to school — but forgot the kid all together.

"I jump in my Range Rover, put the car seat in, put my iPod on — obviously very important — and I drive to school. And then I realize, I'd left Brooklyn in the kitchen," Beckham tells Vanity Fair.

"I was driving along, talking away, and all of a sudden, I looked at the front seat, and I was like, 'S—! S—! I've forgot something!"

Cowell: As humble as ever

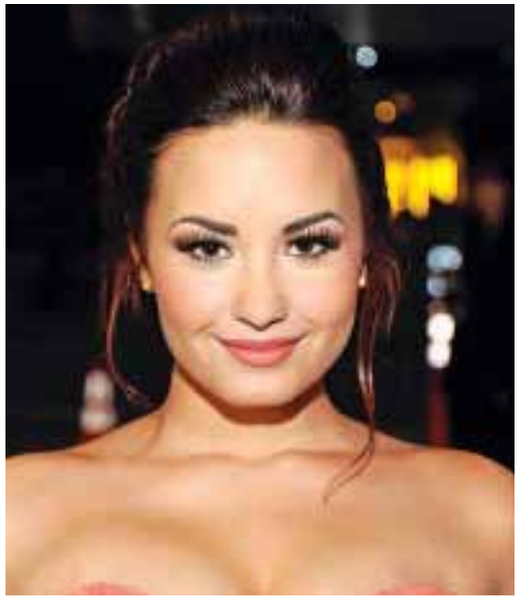
Simon Cowell may not have wanted to keep Cheryl Cole on the U.S. edition of The X Factor, but he's more than happy to take credit for the success she's had in the U.K.

"Even though we went through that pretty horrible period, I could look Cheryl in the eye and say what I did for her in those two years propelled her into a different league," Cowell tells GQ magazine, admitting that while the debacle with the U.S. show may have created some distance between them, he'd still be open to working together again.

"She was hurt. It all ended pretty badly, to be honest," he says. "I always said to her the door is permanently open. It's entirely up to her what she wants to do."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



The Word

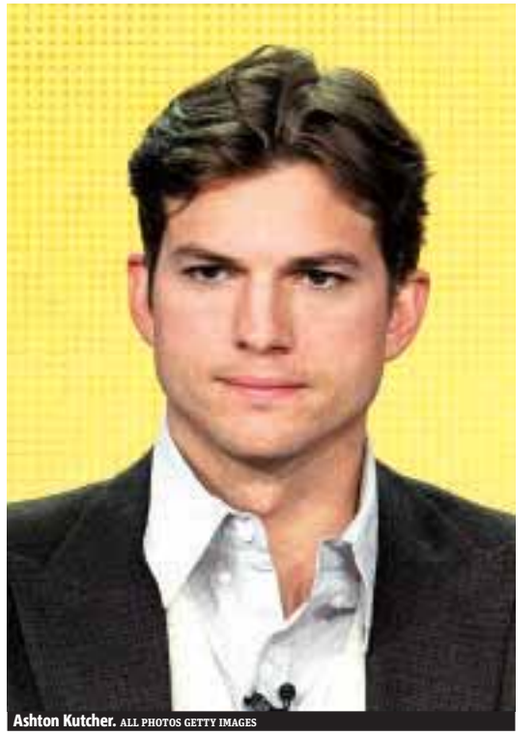
Demi and Miley vie for last X Factor seat

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

With Britney Spears reportedly set to fill one of the empty judges' panel seats on The X Factor, it's a starlet faceoff for the final slot since former judges Paula Abdul and Nicole Scherzinger were kicked off the show after its first season.

And according to conflicting reports, it looks like it's down to two former Disney stars.

Celebuzz.com reports that executive Simon Cowell has been considering Miley Cyrus for the spot, while The Hollywood Reporter insists that Demi Lovato is close to a deal — and even in the "final negotiations" stage of securing the job. I know this sounds, well, crazy, but if these ladies are to decide who has authentic talent on a national television show, why not find someone who actually writes their own music and isn't auto-tuned within an inch of their life?



Ashton Kutcher. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Kutcher brings in the big bucks

With a new deal reportedly in place, Ashton Kutcher will be returning for another season of Two and a Half Men, according to Deadline.

For next year's run — the popular sitcom's 10th season — Kutcher will reportedly bring in $700,000 per episode, with co-star John Cryer making slightly less than Kutcher and young Angus T. Jones earning $300,000 per episode. Each actor signed a one-year contract, sparking speculation that the 10th season could be the show's last.

Witherspoon flaunts her bump

While she hasn't yet made an official announcement about her pregnancy, Reese Witherspoon is doing little to hide the obvious.

The Oscar-winning actress was spotted out and about in her L.A. neighborhood this week in a thin, clingy purple dress, according to Radar Online. And this past weekend, Witherspoon and husband Jim Toth turned heads at the White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington, D.C., with her in a tight top that accentuated her growing bump.

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3 LIFE

Style file

No Mother's Day for model

Please, no flowers for Christy Turlington Burns this Mother's Day. No chocolates and no last-minute, convenience-store cards, either.

A handmade craft from her children would be OK, but mostly what she wants is to have a conversation about the important role that mothers — and grandmothers and great-grandmothers, too — play in families and in larger communities all over the world.

"I never was more appreciative of my own mom and all the other moms out there than when I became one myself," said Turlington Burns, a model, businesswoman and documentary filmmaker, whose children are now six and eight years old. Her No Mother's Day Mother's Day is a way to draw attention to maternal mortality, the cause at the heart of the Every Mother Counts advocacy campaign she founded in 2010. It's also a way to get back to the basics and, hopefully, cut through "all the noise" that now comes with a holiday that the National Retail Federation estimates will come with an $18.6 billion price tag in spending by Americans this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

Exotic skins — real and faux — fuel interesting, luxurious style without going over the top.

He's starting with the man in the mirror

Ladies, take a breather. The boys are learning how to shop

Don't be fooled by the old "my girlfriend bought me this" line.

Fashion insiders say men are taking a keen interest in how they dress — and that means developing their own shopping habits. The biggest difference in how they shop for clothes? Probably research — and purpose.

A Saturday at the shopping mall is not a highlight on most men's calendars, says Tyler Thoreson, head of Gilt Groupe's menswear editorial and creative divisions. Even when they're shopping online, they're not surfing many websites or coming back to them day after day, he says, but when they find something they like, they are passionate and potentially more loyal than women.

Call shopping "entertainment" and they're not buying it, but describing it as a "hobby" is something else, he says.

Men can "geek out" when it comes to the construction and even minutia of a garment. "I'm not just talking about a 'fashion guy.' For many men, your wardrobe is part of your program of discernment. They'll learn about it like a car or a wine or a watch," Thoreson says. "Guys can be busting each other's chops in one breath and talking about soft construction on the shoulder of a suit in the next. They love construction, specs. It's about what's under the hood."

Honey, did you pick that out yourself? THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/PARKANDBOND.COM

What's trending?

Tyler Thoreson says he looks around midtown Manhattan and quite literally sees a change.

- You see men — creative types and hipsters, not just bankers, he stresses — voluntarily wearing ties
- On Gilt's upscale Park & Bond website, for example, neckwear sales increased 33 per cent in 2011 over the previous year. "They're wearing ties because they want to, not because they have to."
- Other booming items are pocket squares, Converse sneakers, tie clips and rope bracelets.

You now see men dressing for the life they want to lead and image they want to project, agrees Eric Jennings, vice-president and fashion director of menswear for Saks Fifth Avenue. Shopping and, even worse, trying things on are necessary evils to get there.

They go to stores on a mission and like to get it accomplished, he says.

They'll come in knowing exactly what they want and will buy in multiples. But, he adds, the modern customer is buying a broader range of products and sees a value in being knowledgable about them.

Paul Grangaard, CEO of shoe brand Allen Edmonds, says when it comes to fashion, men are hunters and women are gatherers. Different methods, different mentalities, but both can end up with full closets, he says.

"Shopping is not a man's favourite when it's about waiting for women. It's not a leisure activity. Shopping for their own clothing isn't their favourite place, either, but there is a renaissance — it's small but steady — as men are interested in an upgrade," Jennings says. "Coming out of the recession, they know they have to take appearance more seriously. It can be that thing for a new job or a promotion."

And, he adds, if they're dressing well during the week, it's likely to become a habit on weekends.

"Men travel in herds, and when it's OK in your friendship group to care about how you look on the weekends, it spreads pretty quickly," observes Grangaard. "Since the recession of 2008, you're always networking. Men dress better for midweek coffees and lunches and on weekends because you never know who you'll run into where. You always want to look secure, stable and reliable."

It's hard to do that in beat-up jeans and running shoes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Speaking of swagger

"Guys can be busting each other's chops in one breath and talking about soft construction on the shoulder of a suit in the next. They love construction, specs. It's about what's under the hood."

Tyler Thoreson. Gilt Groupe

Paul Smith: 'I'm like a cocktail'

Studio visit. The fashion designer has 14 lines, an in-house team of 180 people and a ton of collectibles

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

"I have so much going on all the time it can be hard to follow, but it's also fantastic," says Smith.

ALL PHOTOS TARA DARBY

"I said something really stupid the other day," Sir Paul Smith says as we sit in his London office. "When asked about it, I told someone that I'm not really a collector. But I have large quantities of the same thing. Then I realized, that is actually a collector," he says laughing, making the understatement of the year.

He's standing over an intimidating pile of autographed cycling jerseys given to him by famous racing champions (Smith is a long-time fan of the sport). That pile sits next to leaning towers of art and fashion books, numbering in the hundreds, which are in turn surrounded by walls of bookshelves filled with everything from biographies and novels to toys, cameras, soccer balls and works of photography. Limited edition bicycles and rare works of art round it all out.

"I think you can tell from this office that my head is full of curiosity," he says. "I'm happy to have something that costs 50 pence or something from a famous person. In the same way, all of my collections are different and fun. Paul Smith is like a cocktail of many ingredients that are very intriguing to people," he says, once again playing things down a bit.

His brand is more like a jumbo smoothie — his building houses a total of 180 employees who design 26 collections a year across his 14 lines. Those numbers would make the average person's eyes glaze over.

During our time together, Smith greets every person he comes across by name, with a personal anecdote to boot. But Smith seems to operate best as a multitasker. "It's great for business because there's something for everybody."

SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 10

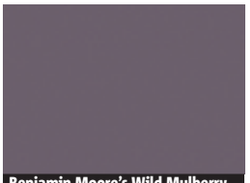
Fixes for your flat-screen TV

Decorative interest.
If you're not mounting your TV on the wall, here's what to do with that empty space

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Q: We love our apartment's Art Deco decor but the wall space around the television looks too bland. I don't want to hang the television, so what can I do to add some decorative interest?
Beatrice Sloane

A: This is a common problem when people choose to sit their flat-screen TV on a credenza rather than mounting it on the wall — they are left with a lot of space above the television and don't know how to treat it.



Benjamin Moore's Wild Mulberry. BENJAMINMOORE.CA

As this is the focal wall in your living area, I suggest treating the walls with something that will add drama and style to the overall room without drawing too much attention to the space above the TV.

Paint the corner pillar a deep colour to allow it to be an architectural element in the room. I suggest Benjamin Moore's Wild Mulberry, a darker, more neutral version of the accent colour that you have in your pillows and rug.

You might want to carry this colour onto another focal wall area like the end of a hallway or in the bedroom. This will help create a constant colour flow throughout the apartment.

Use wallpaper behind the television to add much-needed pattern and texture to the room. I love the Art Deco feel of Graham & Brown's Illusion wallpaper ($60/roll), which highlights the square edges you have in your furniture. The good thing about wallpaper these days is that it's easily removed (simply peel) when you move out or change your colour scheme.

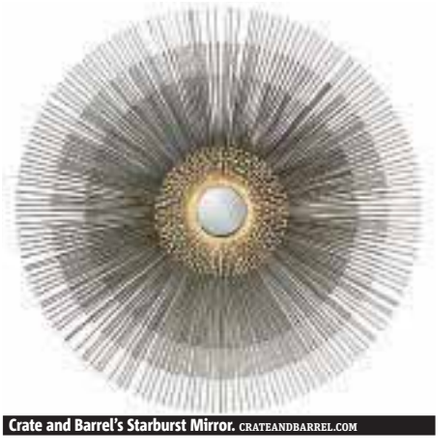
Hang something sculptural to help fill the empty space above the television, but not an attention-grabber like a large wall clock or painting.

The Starburst mirror from Crate and Barrel ($247) has great Art Deco elements that will add a sculptural quality to the space. Hang it in the centre of the empty wall space, not directly above the television.

GOT A DESIGN DILEMMA? EMAIL YOUR QUESTION AND A PHOTO TO HOME@METRONEWS.CA. FOR DAILY DESIGN ADVICE, FOLLOW @KARLLOHNES ON TWITTER.

This living room needs decorative interest on the empty wall behind the television. HANDOUT

Graham & Brown's Illusion wallpaper. GRAHAMBROWN.CA



Crate and Barrel's Starburst Mirror. CRATEANDBARREL.COM

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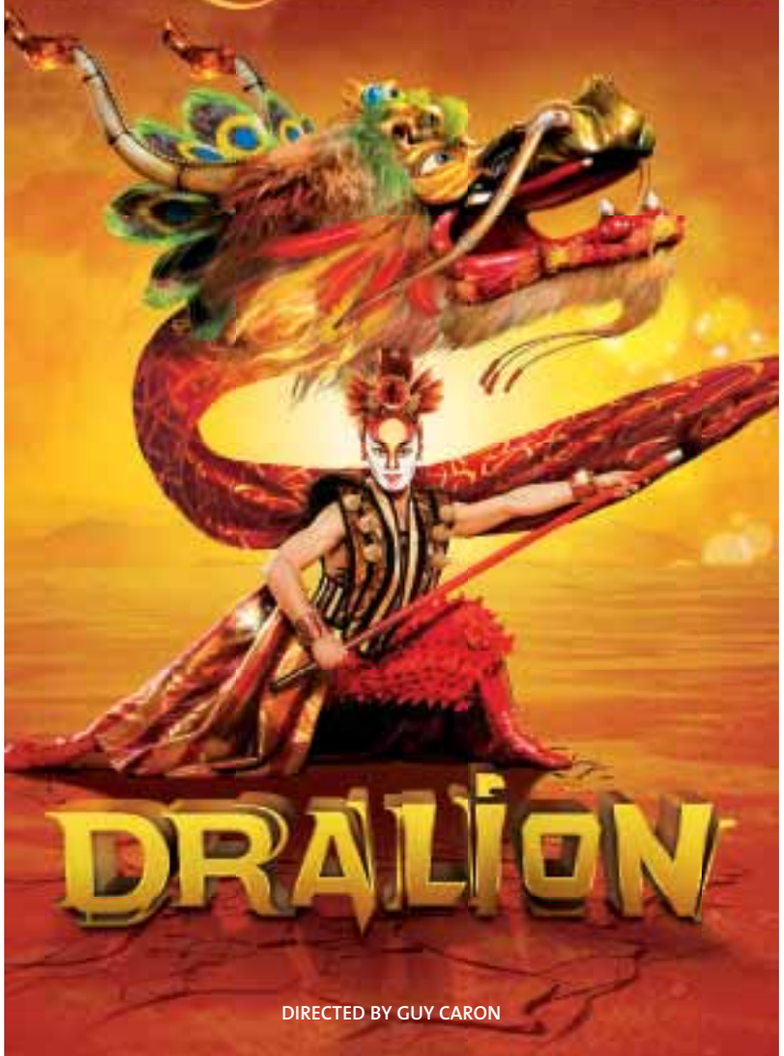

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Forget the meat and go veggie

Grilled Cauliflower Steaks with Poached Eggs and Truffle Oil

This recipe serves two. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Did you know that a head of cauliflower can be sliced into two thick "steaks" that hold up well on the grill? They can be seasoned as you see fit, and topped with whatever you like. In this recipe, the seasonings are simple, then topped with lightly poached eggs and truffle oil, creating a delicious sauce.

1. Heat a grill to medium. Bring a large saucepan of water to a low simmer.

2. Use a paring knife to trim away the leaves and any stem at the base of the cauliflower, but do not cut out the core. Stand the head of cauliflower upright on its base. Use a large bread or other serrated knife to trim away 1/2 inch on either side of the head. Reserve these pieces for another use.

3. Leaving the head standing upright, use the knife to slice the cauliflower in half down the centre to create 2 even halves. Sprinkle both sides of each half with olive oil, then with salt, pepper, a bit of the garlic powder and a little lemon juice.

4. Carefully set the "steaks" on the grill, cover and cook for 8 minutes.

5. Use spatula to carefully flip cauliflower and grill for 8 minutes, or until both sides are lightly browned and tender. Transfer to serving plates, then cover with foil to keep warm.

6. Once the cauliflower is done, add the vinegar to the simmering water.

7. Crack 1 egg into a small glass, then gently and slowly pour it into the simmering water by bringing the lip of the glass right down to the surface of the water so the egg slides in. Cook for 4 minutes, then use a slotted spoon to lift out the egg (letting excess water drip away), setting it one of the cauliflower steaks. Repeat with the remaining egg.

8. Season the eggs with salt and pepper, then drizzle with truffle oil. Serve immediately.

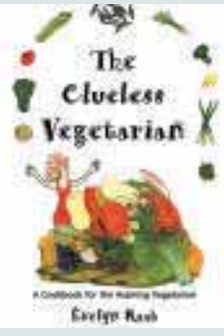
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 large head cauliflower
- Olive oil
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 1 tablespoon white or cider vinegar
- 2 eggs
- Truffle oil (or truffle-flavoured olive oil)

Cookbook of the Week

The Clueless Vegetarian



The Clueless Vegetarian by Evelyn Raab is designed for those who love good food, cooked from scratch, but also have to have a life

If you've just switched to a vegetarian diet, the book's straightforward nutritional info will help you in making good food choices. If you've been practicing for a while, you'll discover new recipes and methods.

Among the eats included are: Creamy Carrot Soup, Roasted Tomato Fettucine, Potato Latkas, Spanakopita and more. METRO

Sports in pictures

1 Soccer. Muamba returns to Bolton

Fabrice Muamba made an emotional return to Bolton Wednesday, waving to supporters from the field less than seven weeks after his on-field cardiac arrest. The midfielder was introduced to a standing ovation ahead of Bolton's match against Tottenham. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 NHL. Habs find their man

The Montreal Canadiens believe they have found the man who can lead them back up the standings, saying new GM Marc Bergevin is the total package.

The club introduced the Chicago assistant GM and former NHL defenceman as its new general manager Wednesday, just over a month after firing Pierre Gauthier. THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 NBA. Award for Chandler

Tyson Chandler, the catalyst for the New York Knicks' defensive improvement, was voted the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shuffled Jays lineup routs the Rangers

MLB. Toronto takes two of three games from red-hot Texas

Wednesday's game

Blue Jays	Rangers
11	5

Edwin Encarnacion, right, celebrates his three run homer with teammates Jose Bautista and Yunel Escobar during the sixth inning, Wednesday, in Toronto. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

With the top of the order off to a mediocre start, Toronto Blue Jays manager John Farrell made several lineup changes for Wednesday's series finale against the Texas Rangers.

The moves paid immediate dividends as the club turned in one of its best offensive efforts of the season.

Kelly Johnson and Edwin Encarnacion homered and ace Ricky Romero earned his fourth win as the Blue Jays defeated the Rangers 11-5.

Farrell moved Johnson into the leadoff role and Yunel Escobar down to the No. 2 spot. Adam Lind got the day off so Encarnacion batted in the cleanup spot behind slugger Jose Bautista.

The Blue Jays responded with an 11-hit attack and took advantage of their opportunities against one of the top teams in the major leagues.

"I don't want to say it was just a pure shakeup of the lineup," Farrell said. "But I think sometimes you put a guy in a different slot and all of a sudden they have a different view and maybe a fresh start and it worked out today."

Johnson hit a two-run shot in the third inning and Encarnacion added some insurance with a three-run blast in the sixth. Escobar chipped in with a three-run triple for the Blue Jays (14-11), who took two of three games from the Rangers.

Romero (4-0) allowed six hits and five earned runs over eight innings. Reliever Joel Carreno, who was recalled from triple-A Las Vegas earlier in the day, had two strikeouts in a 1-2-3 ninth inning.

Both Johnson and Escobar have handled leadoff duties in their careers. Farrell wouldn't commit to locking them in at those spots but did say it's something the team may look to go with "for a little bit."

Johnson was asked if the switch to the No. 1 spot made any difference to him.

"Eleven runs difference today so I guess we'll stick with it," he said with a smile.

Texas scored four runs in the fifth inning but Encarnacion put the game out of reach with his team-leading ninth homer of the season.

It was the Blue Jays' second straight home series victory as the club improved its record at the Rogers Centre to 8-7.

Texas cut into Toronto's lead in the fifth after Romero walked the bases loaded. Andrus knocked in two runs when centre-fielder Colby Rasmus misjudged the line drive and had it sail over his head all the way to the wall.

"You try not to panic in those situations," Romero said. "When things are going a little sideways, you've just got to slow it down. You've just got to realize that one, you're winning the game and two, you have a defence behind you that's going to make plays.

"That's what I was able to do. I came out after that and I was aggressive." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Any time you play these teams that are really good, there's a different vibe and a different feel. When you beat them and you beat them in a series, it gives you a big boost. It gives you a high."

Blue Jays second baseman Kelly Johnson

NFL. Former linebacker Seau found dead at home

Former NFL star Junior Seau was found shot to death at his home Wednesday morning in what police said appeared to be a suicide. He was 43.

Police Chief Frank McCoy said Seau's girlfriend reported finding him unconscious with a gunshot wound to the chest and lifesaving efforts were unsuccessful.

A gun was found near him, McCoy said. Police said no suicide note was found and they didn't immediately know who the gun was registered to.

Seau's mother appeared before reporters, weeping uncontrollably.

"I don't understand ... I'm shocked," Luisa Seau cried out. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Junior Seau
CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

MLB. 'I could have' misunderstood Clemens, Pettitte tells defence

With two short answers, Andy Pettitte called into question the validity of his testimony against Roger Clemens, part of a discouraging day for prosecutors in the retrial of the seven-time Cy Young Award winner.

After stumbling its way to a mistrial of Clemens last year, the government is struggling again in the retrial — to the point that the crux of Pettitte's testimony might be tossed out. First, the exasperated judge criticized the questioning of Pettitte on Wednesday, then he ruled against prosecutors in another matter. Finally he cried out: "You're taking positions that are totally absurd to me."

During cross-examination, Clemens' lawyers asked if Pettitte might have misunderstood when Clemens supposedly acknowledged using human growth hormone to Pettitte in a conversation during the 1999-2000 off-season?

"I could have," Pettitte answered. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

Quoted

"I felt like I played well and a lot of things are coming together and I feel like I'm progressing in a very good manner."

Canadian tennis player Milos Raonic who has jumped up two places in this week's ATP world rankings to a career-best No. 23 after a semifinal showing on the red clay at the Barcelona Open. The hard-serving 21-year-old from Thornhill upset world No. 4 Andy Murray 6-4, 7-6 (3) in the quarter-finals before falling 7-6 (2), 7-6 (5) to No. 6 David Ferrer in the semis on Saturday. The six-foot-five Raonic, who has now beaten six top-10 players in his career, plans on playing only big tournaments this summer, including the Grand Slams and the Summer Olympics.

NHL playoffs

Capitals look to take advantage in D.C.

The Washington Capitals looked to turn momentum from a series-tying win in New York on Monday into a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven with the Rangers on Wednesday night. For game results, go to metronews.ca/sports.

On the web

Last year, the Dallas Mavericks topped the Oklahoma City Thunder en route to their first-ever NBA championship. In the playoff rematch a year later, the young Thunder appear to have learned from that defeat and are well on their way to sending the Mavs to an early exit. Scan the code for the story.

NFL. Gavel drops on Saints players for bounty scheme

New Orleans Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma was suspended without pay for the entire 2012 season by the NFL, one of four players punished Wednesday for participating in the team's cash-for-hits bounty system.

Defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove, now with Green Bay, was suspended for the first half of the 16-game season; Saints defensive end Will Smith was barred four games; and linebacker Scott Fujita, now with Cleveland, will miss three games. All were suspended without pay.

The four players have three days to appeal NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's ruling. NFL Players Association head DeMaurice Smith said the union would fight the penalties. Fujita is a member of the NFLPA's executive committee.

The NFL's statement said Vilma, Hargrove, Smith and Fujita were suspended due to "conduct detrimental to the NFL as a result of their leadership roles" with the bounties.

Originally, the league said that 22 to 27 defensive players were involved in the illegal scheme, which was orchestrated by then-Saints defensive co-ordinator Gregg Williams.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jonathan Vilma. STACY REVERE/GETTY IMAGES

Saints in purgatory

An NFL investigation determined that the Saints ran a bounty system from 2009-11 that offered thousands of dollars for big hits that knocked opponents out of games.

- In March, Goodell suspended Saints coach Sean Payton for all of next season and levied other penalties against the club.

Devils put pitchfork in Flyers' road to Round 3

NHL. Philadelphia not so dominant vs. hard-working New Jersey

After Philadelphia rolled over Pittsburgh in Round 1 of the playoffs, there was a perception the Flyers would be the team to beat in the Eastern Conference.

Deep. Driven. Determined. You name it.

Getting by New Jersey in the second round seemingly was a given, especially after the No. 6 seed Devils needed seven games to knock off Florida.

Well, it's time to revise that perception. Because, with Game 3 on tap Thursday in New Jersey, this series is tied, 1-1.

The Devils not only showed they could play with the Flyers in splitting the first two games in Philadelphia; they could easily be leading 2-0 in the series. They lost Game 1 4-3 in overtime and dominated in a 4-1, Game 2 win Tuesday without leading scorer Ilya Kovalchuk.

"I think there is a pressure with being a favourite in a series," Devils coach Peter DeBoer said Wednesday. "We felt that in the Florida series, and I don't think there is any doubt that it is on Philadelphia. That is something that isn't easy to deal with, when you are supposed to win and, not only win, but win convincingly."

The Devils clearly outworked the Flyers in Game 2. They outshot Philadelphia 35-20 and only Ilya Bryzgalov's stellar goaltending allowed the home team to hold a 1-0 lead after two periods.

But New Jersey blew the game open with four consecutive goals in the third. In doing so, the Devils took home-ice advantage — and confidence — back to New Jersey.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"It is all about the will and desperation. We have to get that back."

Danny Briere, Flyers forward

David Clarkson is congratulated by Zach Parise after crashing the net to score Tuesday night's game-winning goal. TOM MIHALEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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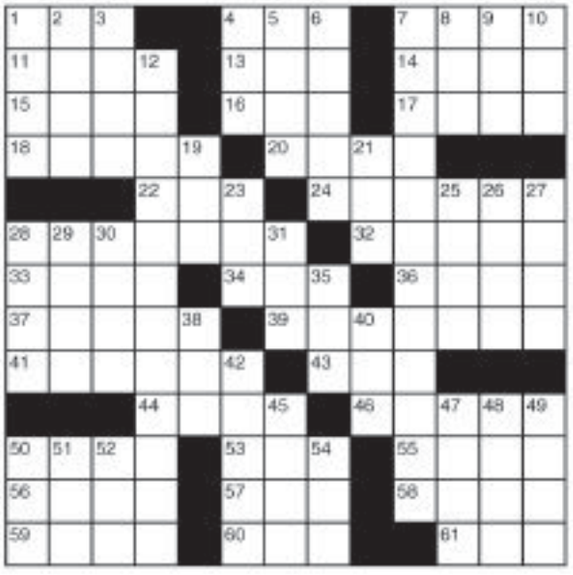
Crossword

Across

1 Kettle and Bell
4 Tummy muscles
7 Connect
11 "Yeah, right"
13 Famed vaudeville family name
14 "Do — others ..."
15 Burn somewhat
16 Can material
17 Birds' home
18 Necklace carving
20 Earring site
22 Chips accessory
24 Sweet tasting
28 Red
32 A portrayer of 007
33 California town
34 Manhandle
36 Gear teeth
37 Play out
39 Vegas winnings
41 Skin-related
43 Homer's interjection
44 Culture medium
46 Refuge
50 State with conviction
53 Gratuity
55 Start over
56 Platter
57 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
58 Adolescent
59 "You do the —"
60 Do some tailoring
61 Tatter

Down

1 Not fem.
2 On the briny
3 Thailand, once
4 Sternward
5 Seethe
6 Religious council
7 "Lassie" actress
8 Indivisible
9 With 10-Down, "— Unusual"
10 See 9-Down
12 "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" Oscar winner
19 Tin Man's need
21 Vagrant
23 Energy
25 Hen pen
26 Therefore
27 Examination
28 Coaster
29 Traffic pylon
30 Hebrew month
31 — Mahal
35 Bankroll
38 Playground game
40 Dove's comment
42 Gate fastener
45 Mature
47 Prognosticator
48 Notion
49 Composer's creation
50 Navy bigwig (Abbr.)
51 By way of
52 Superlative ending
54 Singer Tillis



Sudoku

1		4		2	5			9
	6		4					2
	2		6				4	
2							9	
		9	5		2	4		
	3							1
	7				9		2	
5					1		7	
8			7	3		6		

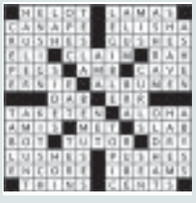
How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	1	4	8	6	2	3	7
7	2	8	5	1	3	6	4	9
3	6	4	7	9	2	5	8	1
9	1	3	2	5	7	8	6	4
6	4	7	1	3	8	9	2	5
8	5	2	9	6	4	1	7	3
2	3	9	8	4	5	7	1	6
1	7	6	3	2	9	4	5	8
4	8	5	6	7	1	3	9	2

Yesterday's Crossword



Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

NZ MEBUOEYL YUHEXKHUY URTWEMNSUM OL LEA, N URTUIH HGKH BNFGH GKSU K OWKMHNXF UZZUIH EX LEA.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A PERSON IS WAY TOO FOND OF FRIGATES AND DESTROYERS, SOME MIGHT SAY IT'S WARSHIP WORSHIP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals Y

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. You would be wise to keep your money in your pocket today. Whatever gains you have made in recent weeks, you could lose.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Your persuasive powers are such that anyone will believe what you tell them. Should you take advantage of that fact financially? Of course.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Plans you made a long time ago are beginning to bear fruit, so keep your nerve and keep things moving.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Go out of your way to talk with people you don't usually get along with. It pays to be friendly.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Try to be a more ambitious and more assertive. Let important people know you're ready to move up.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Anyone who tries to scare you into doing something you don't want to do will fail abysmally.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You may be tempted to bet against the odds today but before you gamble with your future, ask yourself whether you can afford to lose.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Don't keep your feelings to yourself today. Show emotions. People will respond to you better if they can see that you are vulnerable.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. According to the planets, you need to streamline your daily routine so you have more time to yourself.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Don't waste time lamenting your run of bad fortune because it is already beginning to end.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. When pushed to extremes, you can mix it with the best of them and today you must not allow yourself to be defamed by someone.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You may be a nice guy but every now and then you go right the other way and reveal your ruthless streak.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Got mouse?"
George

ROB GRIFFITH/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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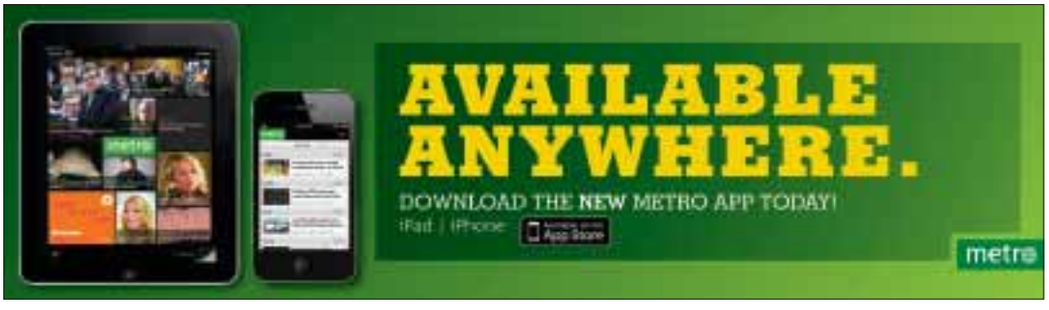
Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.



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